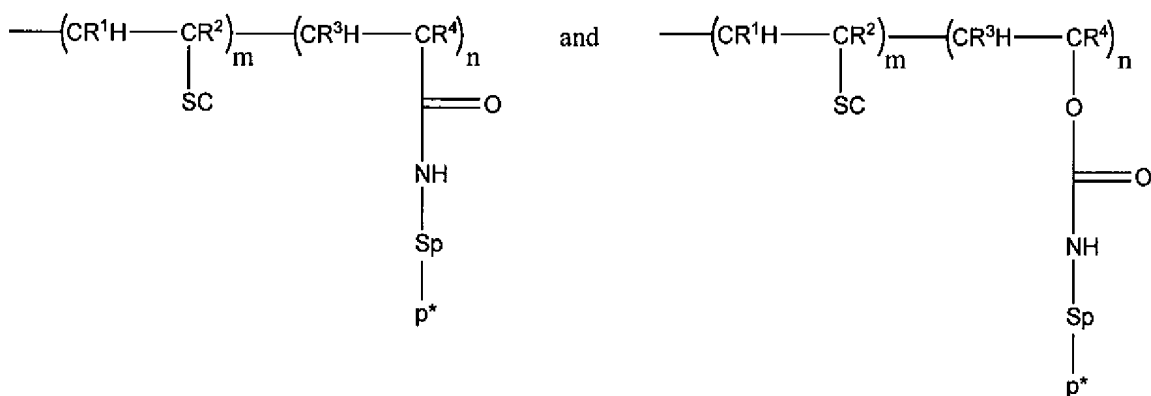
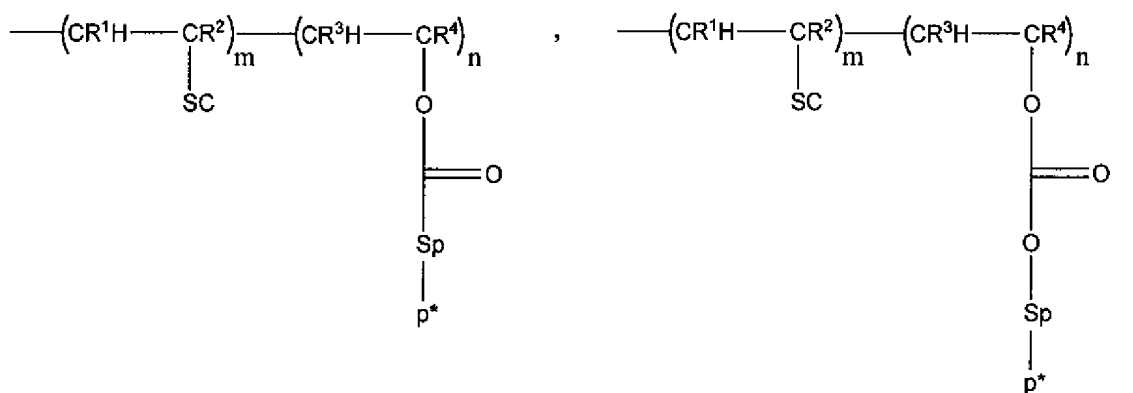
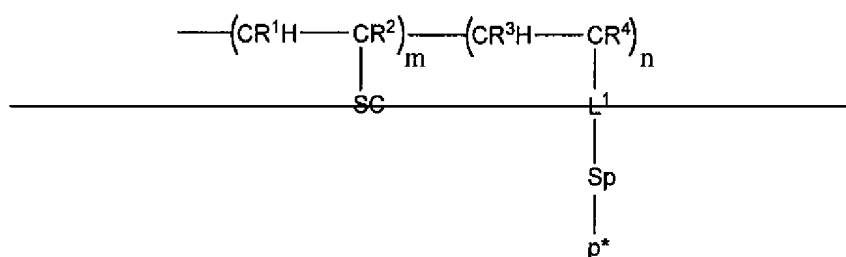


This listing of the claims replaces any and all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1-37 (Canceled).

38. (Currently amended) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, having ~~the~~ a formula selected from:



where:

m is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , and R^4 are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;

SC is a poly(alkylene oxide) side chain containing about 4-20 alkylene oxide units;

~~L^+ is selected from $-O(CO)-$, $-O(CO)O-$, $-(CO)NH-$, $-O(CO)NH-$, $-SS-$, $-S(CO)-$, and $-(CO)S-$, wherein $-$ represents the bond through which L^+ attaches to the polymer backbone;~~

Sp is a poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units; and

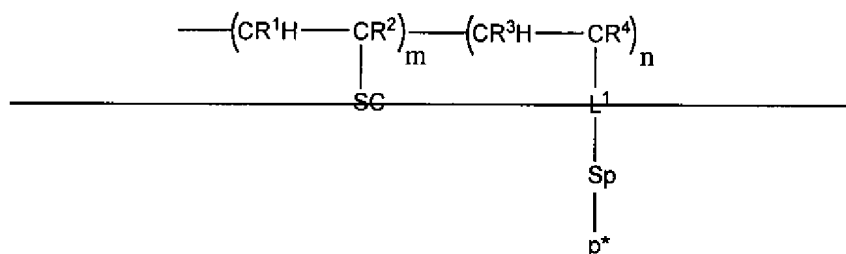
P* is a polar moiety.

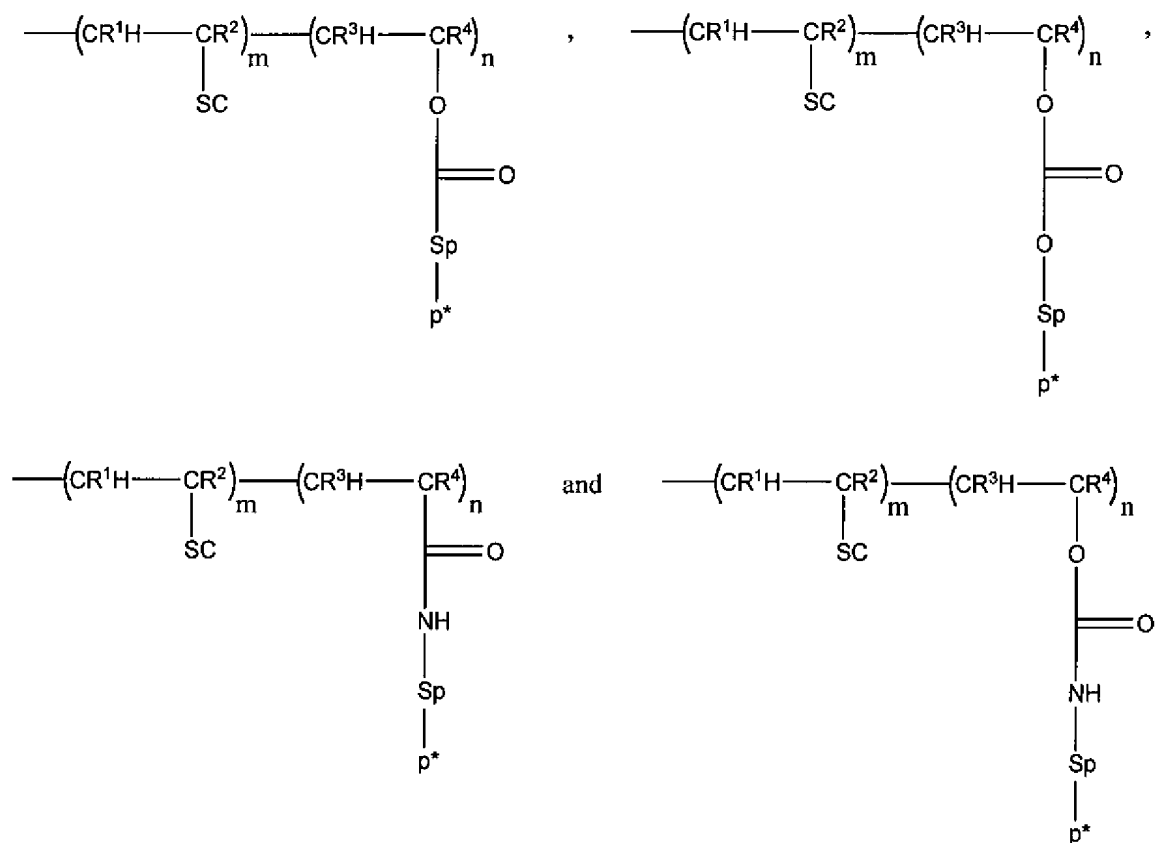
39. (Canceled).

40. (Original) The polymer of claim 38, where m is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000, and the polymer is prepared by polymerization of a composition consisting essentially of a hydrophilic monomer and an acrylic acid monomer esterified with a hydrophilic side chain.

41-90 (Canceled).

91. (Currently amended) A water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer that is free of covalent crosslinks, having ~~the~~ a formula selected from:





where:

m is an integer in the range of 0 to 100,000;

n is an integer in the range of 1 to 100,000;

R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ are independently selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, and lower hydroxyalkyl;

SC is a hydrophilic side chain;

~~L⁺ is selected from O (CO), O (CO) O, (CO) NH, O (CO) NH, S S, S (CO), and (CO) S, wherein represents the bond through which L⁺ attaches to the polymer backbone;~~

Sp is a poly(alkylene oxide) linker containing about 4-40 alkylene oxide units; and

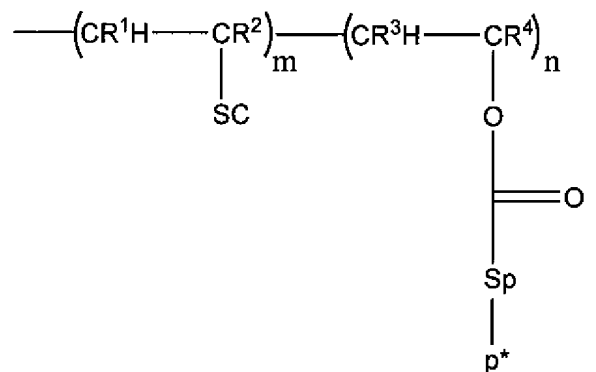
P* is a polar moiety.

92. (Canceled).

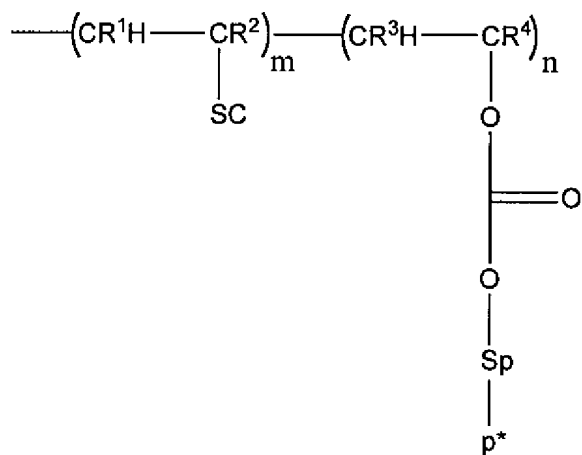
93. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein R¹, R², R³, and R⁴ are hydrogen.

94. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein R¹, R², and R³ are hydrogen, and R⁴ is selected from methyl and hydroxymethyl.

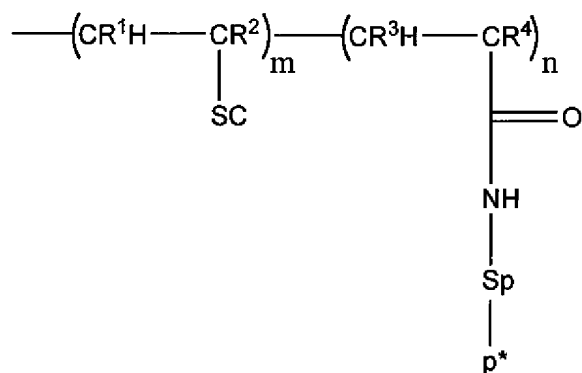
95. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein the formula is



96. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein the formula is

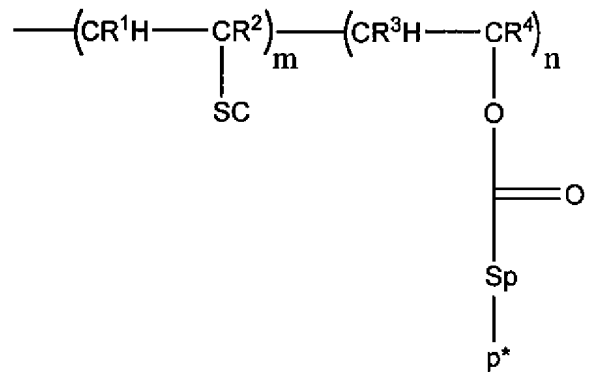


97. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 38, wherein the formula is

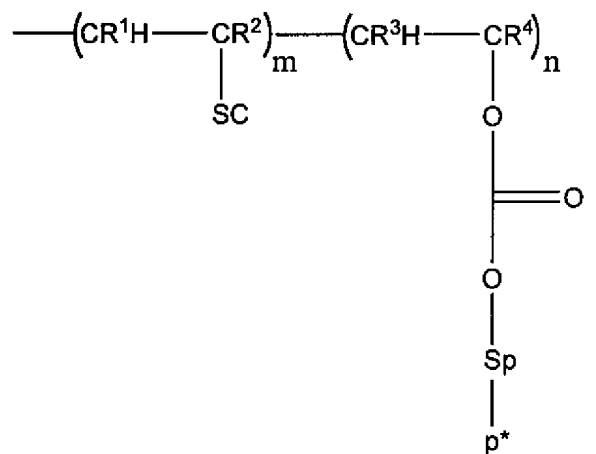

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---}(\text{CR}^1\text{H---CR}^2)_m\text{---}(\text{CR}^3\text{H---CR}^4)_n \\ \quad \quad \quad | \quad \quad \quad | \\ \quad \quad \quad \text{SC} \quad \quad \quad \text{O} \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad || \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{NH} \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad | \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{Sp} \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad | \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \text{p}^* \end{array}$$

102. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein R¹, R², and R³ are hydrogen, and R⁴ is selected from methyl and hydroxymethyl.

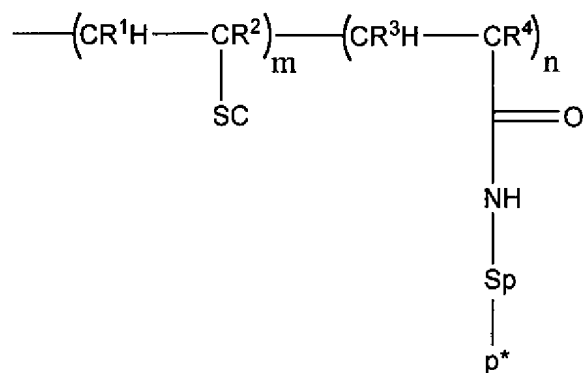
103. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein the formula is



104. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein the formula is



105. (New) The water-soluble, hydrophilic adhesive polymer of claim 91, wherein the formula is


$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---}(\text{CR}^1\text{H---CR}^2)_m\text{---}(\text{CR}^3\text{H---CR}^4)_n \\ | \qquad \qquad \qquad | \\ \text{SC} \qquad \qquad \qquad \text{O} \\ | \\ \text{O} \\ || \\ \text{NH} \\ | \\ \text{Sp} \\ | \\ \text{p}^* \end{array}$$

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